— From the year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.

— With effect from 2009-10, the sharing pattern between the Centre and States has been revised under the cost sharing between the Centre and States will be as under:-

(i) 90:10 for all components including SNP for North East.

(ii) 50:50 for SNP and 90:10 for all components of all States other than North East.

Constant emphasis on States to:

- Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms,
- Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

(iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls;

(iv) Nutrition Education and Training Programme of Food and Nutrition Board

(v) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) [Department of School Education and Literacy].

Fortified food under ICDS

1535. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has gone ahead to feed ready-to-eat micro nutrient fortified food to eight crore poor children under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme, inspite of Ministry of Human Resource Development's rejection, Planning Commission's disapproval and also PMO's objections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 'ready-to-eat meal' biscuit lobbies are behind this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Supreme Court has directed that children should be provided hot cooked meals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) As per the guidelines contained in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have the flexibility to select the type of food to be provided as supplementary nutrition to Pregnant and Lactating Mothers and children below six years of age. Supplementary Nutrition continues to be provided, as per existing guidelines, and as per directions of the Apex Court, to all Pregnant and Lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age coming to the Anganwadi Centre. There is no centralised procurement for supplementary nutrition. Government of India provides funds for supplementary nutrition programme as per schematic norms.

(e) and (f) The Supreme Court *vide* its Order dated 7.10.2004 has, *inter-alia*, directed that "The contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, Self-help Groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals."

The Government has decided that the existing pattern of providing supplementary nutrition will continue, for the present. The Government has also decided that arrangements be made for serving hot cooked meals in all Anganwadis/ Mini-Anganwadis under the ICDS Scheme within the next two years. The Government has also constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to recommend measures to expedite switch over to hot cooked meals under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, in consultation with the State Governments.

Distribution of cooked food under ICDS

1536. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to distribute cooked food in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme instead of the present procedure of uncooked food;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the above process may reverse the process of universalisation of the scheme;

(d) if not, whether competent authority would discuss the change in food supply with stakeholders for consensus; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) The Government has decided that arrangements be made for serving hot cooked meals in all Anganwadis/ Mini-Anganwadis under the ICDS Scheme within the next two years. The Cabinet also constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to recommend measures to expedite switch over to hot cooked meals under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, in consultation with the State Governments.

In order to universalize the Scheme of ICDS, the Government has approved the 3rd phase of expansion bringing the total number of Anganwadi Centres to 14 lakhs.

Observation homes for children

1537. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that observation homes for children in the country are in a pathetic state, as per a study conducted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the homes in the nine States covered under the study, served even 50 per cent of the needs of the children; and